

to be safe in the United States if the fox has his way.

#### PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTION

(Mr. RYUN of Kansas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, partial-birth abortion is a risky procedure. A doctor blindly stabbing scissors into a baby's skull leaves too much room for error. A small slip can have life-threatening consequences for the woman.

Women deserve better. They deserve better than being subjected to a procedure as horrific as a partial-birth abortion. They deserve better than enduring a painful 3-day process that puts their health in jeopardy.

But women usually do not choose to have partial-birth abortions. It is done to them because, as in the words of Dr. Martin Haskell he finds, "dismemberment at 20 weeks and beyond to be difficult due to the toughness of fetal tissues at this stage." It also spares the abortionist the messy task of counting baby body parts.

And contrary to what many Americans think, a partial-birth abortion may be legally performed up until the day a healthy baby is born for virtually any reason.

I oppose this violent procedure for many reasons, but everyone should oppose it for this reason alone, because women deserve much better. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting this week to ban partial-birth abortions forever.

#### VOTING AGAINST PAYMENT FOR RECONSTRUCTION IN IRAQ

(Ms. WATERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I am not going to support the President's request for \$87 billion to continue the war in Iraq. We asked him to continue the inspections, he chose to do a preemptive strike. And now he is telling us that we have got to pay for the reconstruction of Iraq. I am not going to support that. They told us that the oil that they would get, revenues that they would get from Iraq, would support the reconstruction. Now, we have colleagues coming on the floor, telling us what a wonderful job they are doing and showing us bookbags that they have for the children of Iraq. I want the Members to know children in my district do not even have books to put in bookbags, and we have Members on the other side of the aisle who do not support more Federal funding to local school districts. They say it is a local school district problem.

Give me a break, Mr. President. The covers are off. He has mismanaged this war. He has made promises. The only one who is benefitting from this war is Mr. CHENEY's company, Halliburton,

that is getting contracts that were not competitive. The President will not get a vote from me for \$87 billion.

#### SUPPORT THE AMERICAN DREAM DOWN PAYMENT ACT

(Mr. BURNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my support for a bill that will be on the floor later this afternoon, H.R. 1276, the American Dream Down Payment Act. Good quality housing is crucial to the strength of our communities and our Nation. Today more Americans own their homes than ever before; yet despite this success, the lack of homeownership in some of our low-income communities has become a crisis.

For everyone to be able to live the American dream, we should look at providing programs that address the unique housing needs of all people. The goal of H.R. 1276 is to increase the ownership rate among minorities and to revitalize and stabilize our communities. For many low-income households, the down payment is one of the major barriers to homeownership. The American Dream Down Payment Act will benefit these families by helping them realize the American dream of homeownership.

I urge my colleagues to provide hope by supporting the gentlewoman from Florida's (Ms. HARRIS) bill on the floor today. Support H.R. 1276, the American Dream Down Payment Act.

#### TAX CUTS AND OUR ECONOMIC SITUATION

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, the economy in my part of the country continues to drift; yet Congress and the President continue to fiddle. Three and a half million jobs lost since President Bush took office. Two and a half million manufacturing jobs have vanished, one out of ten manufacturing jobs in this country. It simply disappeared; most moved overseas in the last 2½ years. Plant closing after plant closing. Now, the President asks us for \$87 billion with no accountability, \$87 billion to Iraq.

□ 1030

Yet the President at home is cutting education, is cutting spending on health care, will not provide a prescription drug benefit, and even is cutting veterans benefits. Why? For the simple reason that he wants this war on the cheap and the simple reason that he wants to continue to give tax cuts to the most privileged people in this society.

Forty-two percent of the tax cuts have gone to the richest 1 percent of people in this country. That means a

millionaire gets a \$93,000 tax cut. Half of my constituents got nothing.

#### CELEBRATING FREEDOM FOR IRAQI CHILDREN

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, today marks another watershed moment in the liberation of the Iraqi people. Today, the children of Iraq return to school. Only this year, things will be much different. When they enter their schoolroom, for the first time in their lives, they will not have their oppressor staring at them from a picture on the wall. Nor will they be subject to torture and prison for not swearing allegiance to that oppressor. For the first time they will be free to learn. They will be focused on reading, writing and arithmetic, not on hate, incitement, and brutality forced on them by the former dictator.

Operation Iraqi Freedom has brought freedom to the children of Iraq. They will now be free to learn, free to achieve, and free to help build a new society based on freedom, which is now a reality.

For all of those who question whether we have been successful in Iraq, I ask that they look at the faces of the Iraqi children who will be tasting freedom for the first time in their young lives and ask if they would be better off with Saddam staring at them from a wall.

Today is a day to celebrate the freedom of Iraqi children and the hope for a new generation.

#### NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO DESERT OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, we are about half way, maybe not half way, but we are at a critical juncture in our mission in Iraq; but the Democrats want to bail out now. They want to pull the rug out from under the President of the United States so badly that they are willing to strand the people in Iraq and even endanger our soldiers. I think it is outrageous.

If we listen to the Presidential debates on the Democrat side, Dean, Kerry, Clark, it does not really matter what they say today, because tomorrow they will be saying the opposite thing. It is like a jam session of the first amendment without any responsibility to what your words are.

But let us look at the situation in Iraq. We have a very successful military operation that is on balance. I do not want another American soldier or any soldier or any citizen to get killed, obviously. But we have done a remarkable job, and we have secured the country.